

PIP 1A.1.4: Assessing Progress Identifying and Locating Family Members

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PIP Item 1A.1.4: Use the CQI case review to assess progress in improving and identifying the location of family members.

Background and Introduction

Family engagement and involvement in service planning are essential to successful child welfare intervention. In order to engage the family, family members must first be identified and located.

Five questions in the CQI case review tool measure casework quality around identifying or locating maternal relatives, paternal relatives, and fathers for cases with children in out-of-home care:

85. Please answer the following regarding relative placements:

- a. Maternal relatives were identified.
- d. Father was identified.
- e. Absent search completed.
- f. Paternal relatives were identified.

87. Relatives were assessed at every Family Team Meeting/ Case Planning Conference.

These questions contribute to two item scores on the Casework Quality Data in a Glance (DIG): Item 15 (Relative placement) and Item 16 (Relationship of child in care with parents).

For the CQI case review process, cases are randomly selected each month and reviewed at the supervisor, regional, and central office levels. The question scores presented in this report are from the regional level reviews, which are the reviews used to monitor PIP progress.

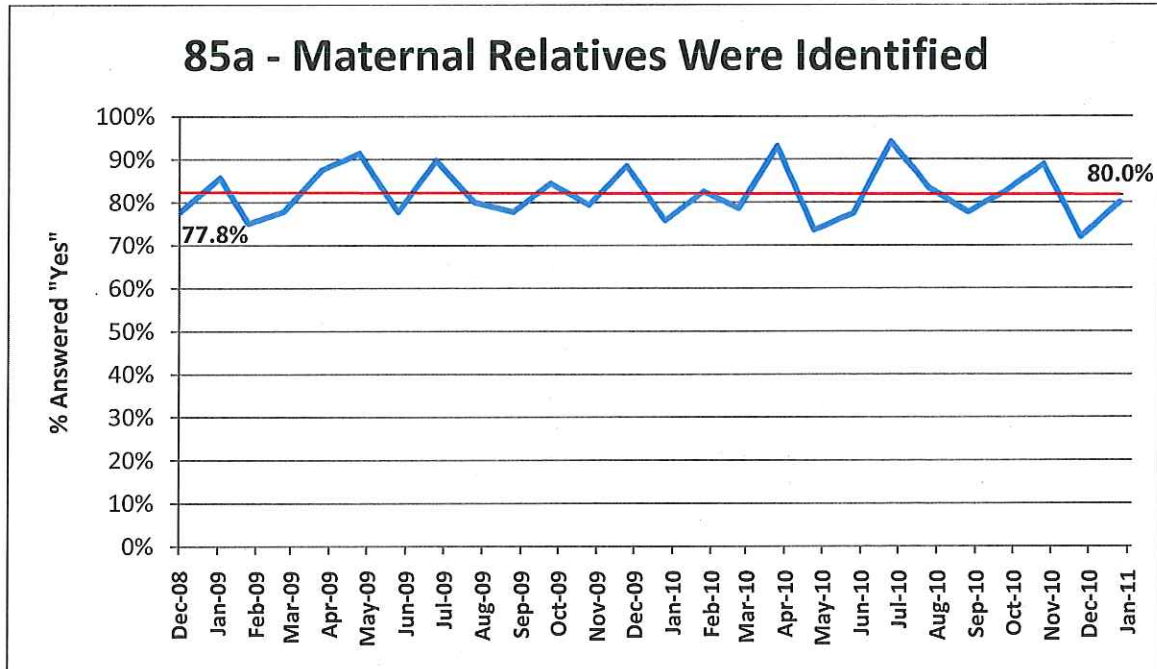
In order to assess progress on these questions over time, responses were charted every month from December 2008, when they were first collected, through January 2011. Superimposed over the fluctuating responses for each question is a trend line which demonstrates the overall rate at which performance is increasing or decreasing.

CQI Case Review Responses

Identifying Maternal and Paternal Relatives

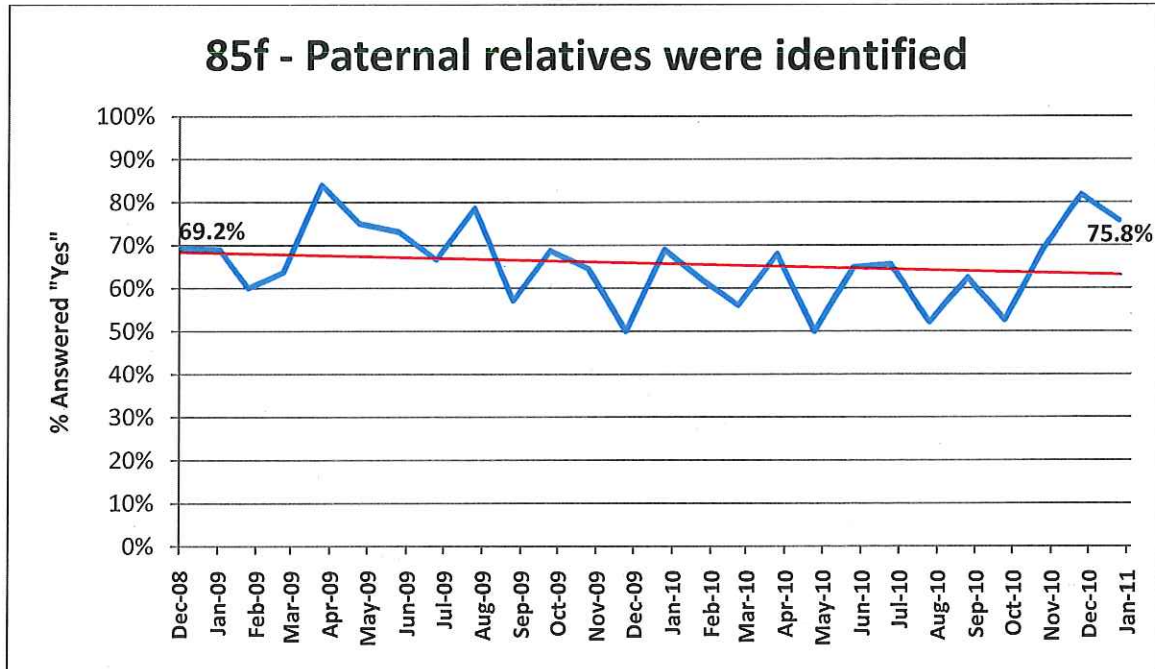
As shown in the first chart, workers have consistently identified maternal relatives in approximately 82% of cases. Despite the natural fluctuation in responses for cases reviewed from month to month, including a starting rate at 77.8% in December 2008 and an end rate of 80.0% in January 2011, the trend line sits flat at 82%, which signifies that DCBS has maintained a high level of performance in identifying maternal relatives, but there is still room for improvement.

Action Step 1A.1.4
KY 4th QR PIP report
March 31, 2011



Average # responses per month = 31; Total # responses = 802

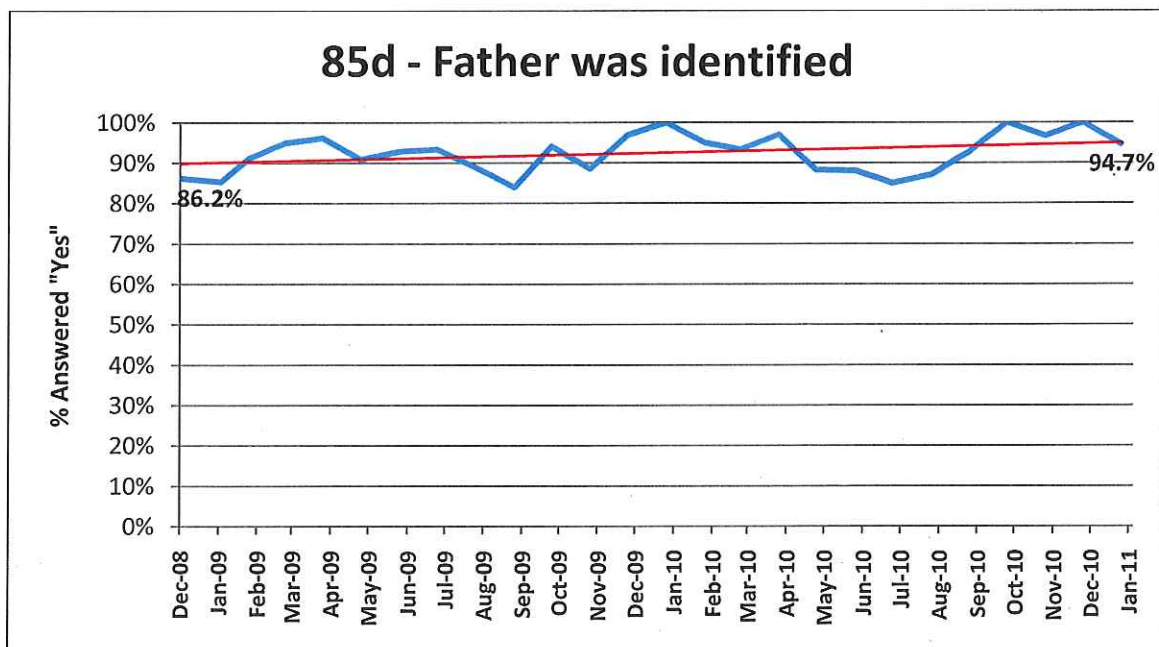
While the identification of maternal relatives has remained stable, the identification of paternal relatives has followed a more erratic path. The overall trend in the rate of identifying paternal relatives has been in decline from 69.2% in December 2008 to as low as 50%. However, during the last three months, the rates have jumped to some of the highest levels yet, up to 82% in December 2010 and 76% in January 2011. Continued monitoring will determine whether this recent spike in performance will stabilize or dip back down.



Average # responses per month = 28; Total # responses = 730

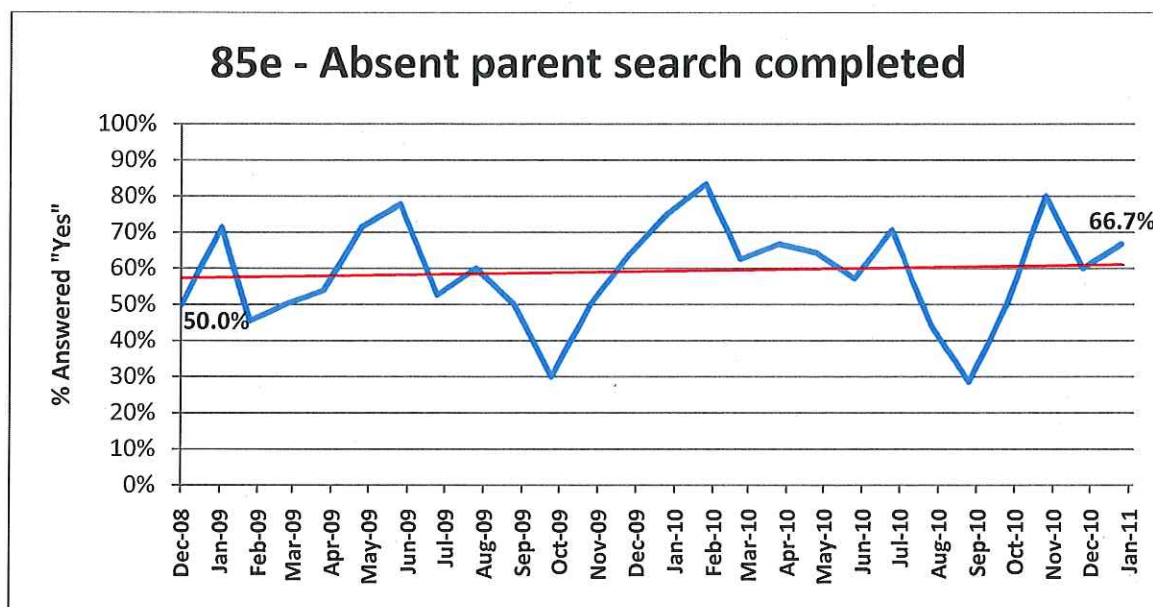
Identifying and Locating Fathers

DCBS has made great progress in identifying and locating fathers. Despite starting at an already high level of performance, over the past two years workers have improved the rate of identifying fathers in 86.2% of cases to 94.7% of cases. During several months, including this past October and December, fathers were identified in 100% of the cases reviewed.



Average # responses per month = 33; Total # responses = 859

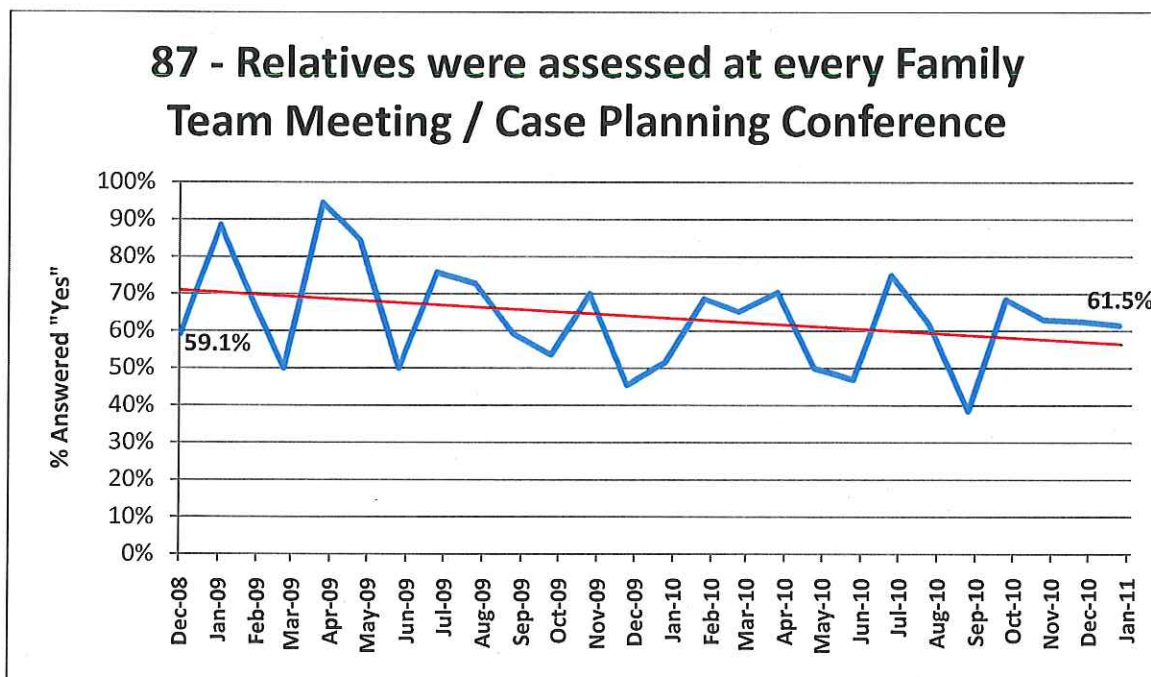
The improved rate of identifying fathers is due in part to more frequent use of absent parent searches. The rate of completing absent parent searches (when applicable) has improved from 50.0% to 66.7% of cases.



Average # responses per month = 12; Total # responses = 313

Assessing Relatives at Every FTM/ Case Planning Conference

Even when relatives are not identified at the beginning of a case, there are still opportunities for workers to continue the search. The final question examined speaks to always keeping relatives in the forefront of our thoughts throughout the life of a case. The question reads, "Relatives were assessed at every Family Team Meeting/ Case Planning Conference," which could include the continued search for identifying and locating family members, although it could also apply to assessing relatives who have already been identified. Overall, the trend line shows that the agency's performance on the continual assessment of relatives has decreased over the past two years, but the rate has hovered around 60% since midway through 2009.



Average # responses per month = 27; Total # responses = 628

Summary of Progress in Identifying/Locating Family Members

The data clearly suggest that DCBS is working on father involvement. DCBS has made steady progress identifying fathers – nearly 95% of the time in the most recent data – and conducting absent parent searches when at first the father could not be identified or located. DCBS has also recently seen a spike in performance identifying the relatives of fathers, but this improvement was preceded by a steady decline and may or may not be sustained.

The identification of maternal relatives has held steady at about 82% of cases, which is a high level of performance, but still has room for improvement.

In the bigger picture, the consideration of relatives throughout the life of a case at Family Team Meetings or Case Planning Conferences has hovered around 60% over the past year and a half. Improvement on this practice would be optimal because these venues present excellent opportunities to continue the search for and involvement of family members.